

THE STATE GOVERNMENT.

Secretary Bush was in Chicago on business last week.

Bank Commissioner Breidenthal is in northwest Kansas examining banks. Adjutant General Allen inspected the Junction City militia company Monday night.

The State Board of Charities has let the contract for the building of the new building at Winfield. The contract price is \$26,770. The bids were all rejected at a previous date because none of them were within the bounds of the \$30,000 appropriation.

Oil Inspector Wharton paid \$2,200 into the State treasury last Friday. This makes \$4,000 in all which he has turned over to the State. He hopes, by the time his first year expires, to turn in more than his predecessor did in two years. No detailed report accompanied the payment.

C. M. Ross, Assistant Secretary of State, spent Saturday in Burr Oak, when the firm of Horner & Ross, of which he is a partner, made its award in its prize corn contest. The largest twenty ears entered weighed twenty-seven and three-fourths pounds, the next largest weighing twenty-four and one-half pounds. Plenty of samples were submitted and the entire number will be sent to Omaha next year as Jewell county's exhibit at the Trans-Mississippi Exposition.

Attorney General Boyle has given an opinion to the effect that counties must pay the full amount of State tax levied against them. The opinion, which was prepared by Mr. Snelling, Mr. Boyle's assistant, sets forth that no erroneous assessment claims for rebate dating prior to 1894 are of value, as the statute of limitations bars them. He also holds that counties are not merely the agents of the State for the collection of taxes. This opinion, if sustained, will enable the State officers to enforce the collection of about \$400,000 of delinquent taxes.

TOPEKA AND SHAWNEE COUNTY.

The Appellate Court has reversed the decision in the Ed. Timon liquor case. It is held that but one offense was committed and that the penalty for more than one could not be enforced.

Shevlin, the diamond thief, who robbed Judge Keeler at the fair grounds during the Fall Festival, has been arrested in Chicago and brought to Topeka for trial. Officer John Halsch brought him.

The will of J. C. Kyle, the dry goods man who died about a year ago, is being contested by several of his cousins. He had no other relatives and gave all of his property to employees and others who had aided him in his lifetime.

Detective Capron has arrested Monte LeCroft and he has been fined on a charge of vagrancy. He is an effeminate looking fellow, who dresses up in women's clothes and entices men into dark out-of-the-way places where he robs them. He is now on the rock pile.

Howell Jones, who has managed most of Congressman Curtis' Congressional campaigns, has been offered an appointment as special commissioner to adjust the affairs of the Osage Indians, but has declined to accept. James A. Troutman has gone to Washington to get the job if possible.

Marshall's Band, which owns a three-quarters interest in Garfield Park, has asked that a receiver be appointed. It is alleged that G. W. Paramore, whose claim to the other fourth interest has been foreclosed, is destroying trees and otherwise damaging the grounds and rendering them unfit for park purposes.

The Chas. Wolff Packing Co. has bought eleven lots just east of its plant, which will be used for feed lots. A new four-story building 125x175 feet will be built just south of the present building. When this is completed the daily slaughter will be 500 hogs, 100 cattle and 100 sheep. This company is one of the progressive industries of the city.

Maj. T. J. Anderson, who has been connected with the Rock Island since it came to Topeka, will soon be succeeded as Assistant General Passenger Agent by Eben E. MacLeod. Major Anderson will be given a local position as general agent at, it is stated, the same pay. He states that his present position requires too much traveling and that he is glad to make a change.

The report of the Salvation army hospital management shows that that institution is a very valuable and worthy one. It has cost \$1,852 to run it during 1897. For this amount 126 patients were cared for. The patients were kept an average of twenty-three days each. It is impossible to estimate the amount of suffering relieved or the general good done. The management thinks that

\$2,962 will be necessary to keep the institution going and give it an opportunity to cover the field during 1898. Topeka people will be asked to contribute to this good work. But \$72.50 was received from patients and this was given voluntarily.

The merchants' excursion from Emporia last Friday was a very satisfactory affair so far as Topeka business men were concerned. At least 275 people from out of town availed themselves of the opportunity to patronize Topeka merchants. Nearly every one on the avenue felt the effects of the out-of-town trade and satisfaction with the results was expressed on all sides. Arrangements were immediately made for another excursion from Manhattan on the Union Pacific, Tuesday, December 21. It will doubtless benefit Topeka to a very great extent to have the people in the smaller towns become informed as to the advantages of trading here.

Shawnee County Sheriff Case.

The election contest case of Kepley vs. Cook for the office of Sheriff of Shawnee county was decided by the contest court Monday. The demurrer by Cook to the evidence submitted by Kepley was sustained on the ground that there had not been a sufficient number of illegal ballots shown to change the result. The court held that all ballots on which Kepley's name appeared more than once and the voter had marked in more than one square opposite Kepley's name should be counted for Kepley; that ballots illegally marked for some other officer but properly marked for the office of Sheriff should be counted; that all ballots marked with ink or purple pencil or in any way except with black pencil should be rejected, but that a failure on the part of the judges of election to number the ballots was an immaterial error, that requirement of the statute being only directory and not mandatory. They threw out the vote of one Washburn student, McDonald, as illegal.

Kepley had objected to 159 votes as illegal and of these forty-two were rejected and 117 counted for Cook. Cook had objected to 395 votes as illegal and of these 353 were counted for Kepley. This made a total of 4,862 votes for Cook and 4,757 for Kepley and giving Cook a majority of 105, which is twenty-one votes less than the majority given to Cook by the election returns.

Both sides had exceptions entered to the rulings of the court and took ten days in which to file a bill of exceptions, but it is not likely that any appeal will be taken. The contest court went over all the evidence very carefully and the three judges concurred unanimously in the decision which was rendered.

Congress.

Senator Hoar favors an additional revenue tax of \$1 per barrel on beer.

Congress took a recess for the holidays last Saturday. It will again convene January 3.

Senator Wolcott promises to deliver a speech after holidays in which he will tell of the work of the international monetary commission.

The President has sent to the Senate the nomination of Attorney General McKenna for the Supreme bench. It will not be considered until after holidays.

The legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill, with the exception of the civil service feature was agreed to by the House before the holiday recess.

An amendment to the pension appropriation bill, reducing the number of clerks in the pension department by cutting off ninety-five of them was adopted in the House.

Senator Allen (Pop., Neb.) has offered a resolution asking that the instructions given to the Wolcott monetary commission, its report and the correspondence relative to the matter

Secretary Gage stated positively before the House currency committee last Friday that if a Congress were elected next year which would pass a free silver bill that President McKinley would veto it.

In a Senate discussion of the seal question Senator Pettigrew (silver Rep.) sharply criticized the government for consulting foreign countries about the settlement of this or any other question.

Congressman Cooney, of Missouri, wants to amend the Federal constitution by adding a provision that no State, the territory of which is not wholly contiguous to the United States, shall be admitted to the Union.

Senator Kyle has introduced an immigration bill which differs from the Lodge bill in that the test of education shall be made by the American consul nearest their place of residence in the old country. He thinks with the test before them when they reach this coun-

try many otherwise desirable immigrants get frightened and confused and that it works a great hardship to them to be sent back.

General Grosvenor's civil service bill would put the operation of the civil service law where it was when Harrison retired. In other words he would exempt every appointee from its provisions who was placed there by Cleveland.

Several Congressmen were enthusiastically cheered for roasting the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for recommending that government clerks be retired on salary when they reached the age limit. It was characterized as a movement in favor of a civil pension system.

Senator Harris will endeavor to get the Senate Committee on Pacific Railroads to recommend that the government bid the full amount of its claim for the Kansas Pacific railroad. He says that it is now paying 4 per cent. on a valuation of \$30,000,000 and as the government's claim is but \$12,300,000 it will be a safe bid.

THE TRAVELERS' QUILTS BUSINESS.

Rather Than Stand an Examination the Company Decides to Leave the State.

Insurance Superintendent McNail has received a letter from President Batterson, of the Travelers' Insurance Co., in which it is announced that that company has instructed its agents to stop writing insurance in Kansas. He says that the company takes this action to save themselves further trouble owing to Mr. McNail's power and his misuse of it. He says that on this account he withdraws his company from the State without a pang of regret.

Mr. McNail received a letter from Mr. Batterson Saturday in which the latter continued to assume his defiant air and intimated that the controversy with the department would continue. In the meantime, however, McNail has proceeded with his arrangements to investigate the Kansas assets of the company. He had prepared a blank for appraisal of each parcel of real estate and other property and intended to have three disinterested citizens, at each point at which property was located, appraise and fix the valuation of it.

This is evidently what the Travelers' did not want, as the withdrawal notice comes with such suddenness as to indicate that this step was taken to escape such revaluation. The Travelers' action tends to indicate that this action would be very damaging to its interests. It sustains McNail's contention that the company's assets are too highly valued. This seems to have been the view Judge Foster took of the matter, as he said in his recent opinion:

"It cannot be said that there is an entire absence of evidence to justify the proposed examination by the defendant, in as much as certain real estate of the complainant in this State is listed at a price largely in excess of its value, and there is an absence of any statement of defaulted interest on loans, and allowing to the defendant the presumption of good faith, in some degree if possible, it may well be said that there is some reason to suspect the correctness of the complainant's statement."

The Travelers', in leaving Kansas, throws up a contract for all of the accident business on the Santa Fe, which is a very large contract.

Monthly Reports Required.

State Auditor Morris has replied to Governor Leedy's request for information as to what officers were making monthly reports as required by Attorney General Boyle's interpretation of the law on the subject. The reply is as follows:

"In answer to your communication, inquiring 'What public officers, who receive and disburse money, make monthly reports to you? How many reports has each made, and what reports, if any, were made to your predecessors, and by whom?' I take pleasure in saying: It has been the custom during this administration, also former administrations, for the Secretary of State, Auditor of State and Warden of the Penitentiary to make reports, according to the law. W. W. Culver, State Grain Inspector, has reported every month since he took office. M. C. Kelley, State Oil Inspector under the former administration, reported to this office from September, 1895, to November, 1896, inclusive, but made no further reports, although notified and requested to do so.

"We receive from the State Treasurer duplicate receipts for moneys paid in by several other officers, but have not received reports signed and sworn to, ac-

Those Dreadful Sores

They Continued to Spread in Spite of Treatment but Now They are Healed—A Wonderful Work.

"For many years I have been a great sufferer with varicose veins on one of my limbs. My foot and limb became dreadfully swollen. When I stood up I could feel the blood rushing down the veins of this limb. One day I accidentally hit my foot against some object and a sore broke out which continued to spread and was exceedingly painful. I concluded I needed a blood purifier and I began taking Hood's Sarsaparilla. In a short time those dreadful sores which had caused me so much suffering, began to heal. I kept on faithfully with Hood's Sarsaparilla, and in a short time my limb was completely healed and the sores gave me no more pain. I cannot be too thankful for the wonderful work Hood's Sarsaparilla, has done for me." Mrs. A. E. GILSON, Hartland, Vermont.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is the best—in fact the One True Blood Purifier.

Hood's Pills cure all liver ills. 25 cents.

According to law, as interpreted by L. C. Boyle, Attorney General. These officers are: Treasurer of the State Board of Charities, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Clerk of the Supreme Court, State Librarian, Bank Commissioner and Superintendent of Insurance.

"M. C. Kelley, State Oil Inspector, deposited money with the State Treasurer once since his last report, but no report accompanied the same. E. V. Wharton, State Coal Oil Inspector, deposited money three times with the State Treasurer, but no report has been received from him."

The Bank Commissioner and Superintendent of Insurance are working under a special law, with which they are complying. It is to be hoped that monthly reports will be persistently demanded and required and that there will be no further trouble in this line.

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